

Commissioner Pearson met with top officials to fight community drug problem

By Bob Palm

In his months-long battle against the sale and use of illegal drugs in his district, Clark County Commissioner William Pearson met recently with top local and federal law enforcement officials to map out solutions to the problems.

At the Nov. 7 meeting, Joseph Catale, resident agent in charge of the federal department of Drug Enforcement, emphasized the seriousness of the drug problem by saying:

"That six tons of cocaine is coming into Southern Nevada every year."

Sheriff John Moran said resort hotels are losing money because of the drug problem, but did not elaborate.

Robert Ranney, director of the county Juvenile Court Services, said in recent raids at area schools by the Metro Police Department, it was found that most of the youthful suspects were A-B students from wealthy families and were not the typical troublemakers.

Another official said the drug problem in Southern Nevada cannot be segmented to the black community because white youths come to West Las Vegas to participate in the drug trade.

Pearson said the purpose of the meeting was to address the drug problem as it relates to the coordinated efforts of law enforcement officials.

The officials said authorities need the help and cooperation of the community

Voter registration deadline set

Clark County taxpayers who want to cast ballots on a three-year, \$60.1 million school building plan during a Dec. 10 special election and who are not already registered to vote have until 9 p.m. Nov. 23 to register.

The Clark County Election Department is located at 400 Las Vegas Blvd. South and will be open from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. between Nov. 19 and Nov. 23. Regular business hours are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Voters who have moved since registering are required to change their addresses on their registration.

Addresses may be changed by calling the department at 386-4055 through Friday, Nov. 15.

to be effective. Several of the officials said the problem cannot be restricted to Northwest Las Vegas, but is countywide.

Community members at the meeting asked Pearson to request an opinion from state Atty. Gen. Brian McKay on whether the state law allowing the confiscation of money and property acquired



Commissioner W. U. Pearson

through the drug trade for use by the government to fight crime would also permit the use of the money for the prevention and education of drug abuse.

Pearson started the crime-drug task force in July.

Since then, he has met with about 350 West Las Vegas community members, North Las Vegas city officials, all of the youth gangs in his district, Las Vegas Housing Authority officials, and members of the West Las Vegas Minister Alliance.

Others attending the most recent meeting were John Scheriber, special agent in charge of the FBI; District Attorney Bob Miller; Las Vegas Councilman Robert Nolen; U.S. Atty. William Maddox; Julian Klugman, regional director of

Delta Sigma Theta To host Annual Sepia Fashion Show

Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., a public service, non-profit organization, will host its 9th Annual Sepia Fashion Show on Dec. 7 in the Imperial Ballroom of the Aladdin Hotel at 8:00 p.m.

This year's theme will be "Ultimate Glamour." Background music will be provided by Henry Shed.

Tickets are now available for \$15-Adults and \$6-Students.

For further information regarding sponsorships or tickets, please call Beverly Mathis, Fashion Show Chairperson, at 645-0135, or Rosemary Hall, Scholarship Chairperson, at 644-3779.

Concerned black leaders formed local committee to address problems, issues

After several months of secret meetings, a group of blacks have formed an informal committee consisting of all black organizations and other community members "to address serious issues that affect the economic well-being and programs of the black community."

More specifically, a spokesman said, the committee is a forum to collectively appeal support and coordinate the black community's needs and to maintain inter-group communication of the black

Community Relations Service of the U.S. Department of Justice; State Sen. Joe Neal; Lonie Chaney, president of the Nevada Black Chamber of Commerce; Gwyn Brown Coleman, executive director of the Black Chamber; the Rev. S.P. Parks, president of Ministers Alliance; Jesse Scott, president of the NAACP; the Rev. Willie Davis, president of Pastors Conference; Undersheriff Eric Cooper; Mujahid Ramadan, gang liaison officer for Juvenile Court Services, and North Las Vegas Police Chief Thomas Fay.

Pearson said at his Nov. 19 meeting, he plans to select a small committee to draft a comprehensive drug program, which will address enforcement, treatment and prevention of drug abuse.

Invited guests will include representatives from the Greater Las Vegas Chamber of Commerce, the hotel-resort association and the school district.

community in the State of Nevada.

After a more than five-hour meeting Monday, the Council voted to oppose a proposed re-organizational plan of the Southern Nevada Employment and Training Program (SNETP) because, council members said in a letter to program chairman Robert Nolen, the plan shows an apparent "deliberate effort to preclude a black from a top line position at the administrative level of SNETP."

The Council asked Nolen to postpone consideration of the plan until its members could discuss it with members of the SNETP board of directors.

The SNETP board was scheduled to consider that plan at its Nov. 13 meeting. The results of the meeting will be reported next week.

The Council also voted Monday to make up a black agenda outlining needed projects and events in the community and voted to totally support one another in their endeavors, including advocacy.

Members of the Council include Assemblymen Morse Arberry and Gene Collins; School Board Trustee Yvonne Atkins; North Las Vegas Councilman William Robinson, and representatives of the Pastor's Conference of Southern Nevada, Operation Life, New Dawn Inc., NAACP, Nevada Black Chamber of Commerce, PUSH, Toler Realty, Jackson Avenue Merchants Association, and other organizations. — By Bob Palm

Bob Palm Joins Sentinel-Voice staff

Bob Palm, veteran news reporter, has joined the Sentinel-Voice news staff.

Palm was formerly employed at the Las Vegas Sun for the last 12 years and was a contributing reporter to the former Las Vegas Voice newspaper during 1975.

A 1972 graduate of University of Colorado, Boulder, receiving a Bachelor of Science degree in journalism, Palm comes to the Sentinel-Voice staff well-

rounded in the community affairs and according to Publisher Ed Brown "should serve as a valuable asset for the targeted readership of this newspaper."

His father, Robert, is employed at the Viscount Inn and his mother works at the Flamingo Hilton - both on the strip.

Palm, born in Ludlow County, Miss., has five sisters and two brothers, all residents of Las Vegas.

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